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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **HALCO DRILLING INTERNATIONAL LIMITED** [GB/GB];
West Lane, PO Box 25, Southowram, Halifax HX3 9TW (GB).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **GREEN, Christopher, James** [GB/GB]; Halco Drilling International Limited, West Lane, PO Box 25, Southowram, Halifax HX3 9TW (GB).

(74) Agent: **CARSTAIRS, James, C.**; Forrester Ketley & Co, Forrester House, 52 Bounds Green Road, London N11 2EY (GB).

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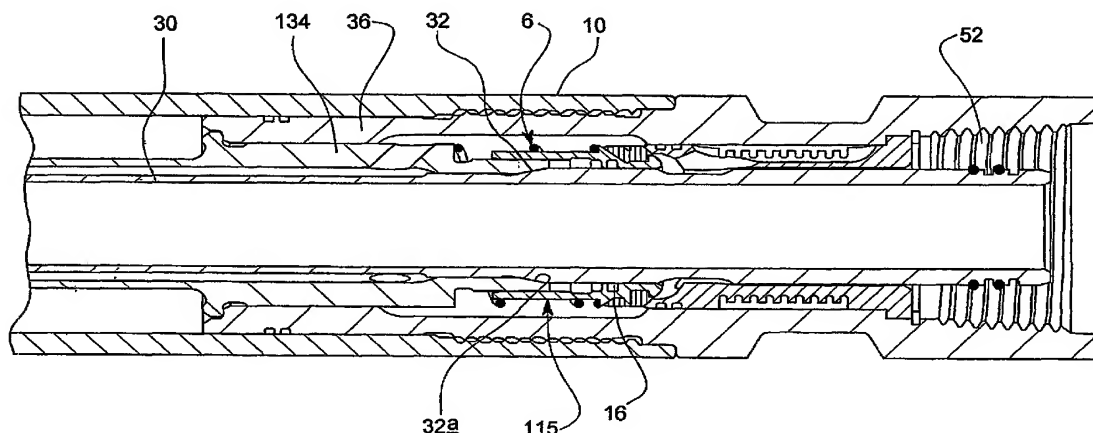
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(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO ROCK DRILLING EQUIPMENT



(57) Abstract: In a reverse circulation down-the-hole hammer assembly having an axially extending central tube (30) for recovery of drilling debris, the central tube (30) has a downwardly facing abutment (32) and an upwardly facing upper end and is located axially in the hammer assembly by having the part thereof between the downwardly facing abutment and the upper end located between axially spaced complementary abutments, one of which fixed and the other of which is provided by a resiliently longitudinally displaceable member (42) within a casing part providing an upper end of the hammer assembly and which is removably retained in an adjoining part of the hammer assembly. The longitudinally displaceable member engages the upper end of the central tube and thus clamps the central tube in place.

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